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April's Big Day

A Reading A-Z Read-Aloud Book

Long A • Word Count: 523



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April's Big Day



Written by Dolores Kleinholz
Illustrated by Rebecca Thornburgh

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WORDS USED IN THIS BOOK

High-frequency words:

1-100 a, about, all, and, are, as, at, ate, be, big, but, by, came, come, down, each, for, from, get, go, had, her, him, his, I, if, is, it, me, my, no, now, of, on, other, our, out, play, said, she, that, the, then, there, they, to, up, was, we, where, with, would, you

101-200 here, little, saw, then, under

Long /a/ words:

ray, April, awake, today, birthday, great, day, face, braided, played, favorite, gray, named, Snowflake, celebrate, lake, they, waved, jay, raced, yay, arranging, tables, favors, plates, shame, late, came, Vijay, Katie, DeWayne, Maisy, Daisy, Jake, gazed, Great Dane, Bailey, chasing, afraid, gate, okay, stays, hate, maybe, wait, shade, away, play, lay, games, chase, gave, paint, eights, crayons, snake, baby, racecar, rain, hailing, safety, entryway, doorway, nape, safe, hooray, amazed, sang, ate, cake, rainbow, taste

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© 2004 Learning Page, Inc.
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At the first ray of sunshine, April was wide awake.

“Today is my birthday party!” April said.
“It’s going to be a great day.”

She washed her face and braided her hair.

Then she played with her favorite gift from Mom and Dad—a gray kitten she had named Snowflake.

“I’m six today, Snowflake!” April said.
“Let’s go celebrate by the lake.” Out the door they went.





April waved at a blue jay as she raced along the trail to the lake.

“Hello blue jay, I’m six today!” April said.
“Yay!”

By the lake, Dad was blowing up balloons. Mom was arranging tables and chairs.

April put party favors and hats beside the plates. She put a party hat on her head.

“It’ll be a shame if my friends are late for my birthday party,” she said.





Then April saw her friends coming down the trail with big smiles and presents.

There came Vijay, Katie, DeWayne, Maisy and Daisy, but where was Jake?

April gazed up the trail. Here came Jake with his Great Dane, Bailey, chasing after him!

“I was afraid I’d be late,” Jake said, “because Bailey jumped over the gate and followed me. Is it okay if he stays? He’s gentle and won’t scare anyone.”

April stared at the giant dog. The Great Dane jumped at her kitten, Snowflake, patting at her with his huge paws. Didn’t cats and dogs hate each other?

“I don’t know,” said April. “Maybe Bailey should wait in the shade away from my kitten. I’ll put Snowflake over here while we play.”

Bailey lay under the shade of the tree, and April put her kitten near the trail. All during the games, April watched Bailey. She was a little afraid that Bailey would try to chase Snowflake.





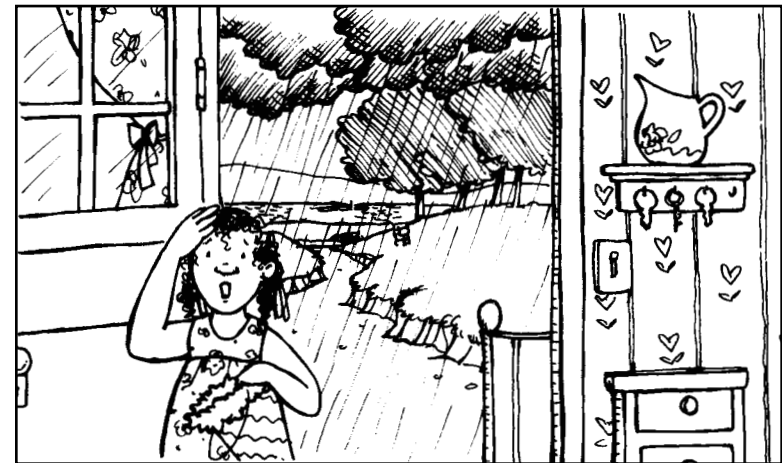
The kids played party games, and then April opened her presents. Vijay gave her a paint set. Katie gave her a card game called Crazy Eights. DeWayne gave her crayons and a rubber snake.

Maisy and Daisy gave her a baby doll. Jake gave her a toy racecar.

Everyone was having such a great time that they didn't notice the sun slipping away. Gray clouds darkened the sky and it began to rain.

"Rain, rain, go away!" Maisy and Daisy chanted. It began hailing as the party guests raced for the safety of the house. Just as April reached the entryway, she realized that she had forgotten about Snowflake in the wet confusion.

"Oh no, where's Snowflake? I forgot to get her!" April cried. "She's still out in the storm!"





Suddenly, Bailey the Great Dane raced through the doorway. He was carrying Snowflake by the nape of her neck! At first, April was afraid that the dog had hurt Snowflake. But then she realized that Bailey was keeping Snowflake safe.

Everyone was amazed. "Hooray for Bailey!" they cheered.



Afterwards, they sang the birthday song to April, ate strawberry cake, and watched a big rainbow spread across the sky. As the other kids began to play, April gave Bailey a taste of cake and said, "Bailey, you are invited to come to all of our parties from now on!"